

**TOWN OF ROCKY HILL
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jim Tallberg called the Tuesday, February 25, 2015 meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Town Council Room of the Rocky Hill Town Hall, 761 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Present: Jim Tallberg, Chairman
Phil Benoit, Vice Chairman
Neil Geldof, Commissioner
Jeffrey Thomen, Commissioner
Frank Simboski, Commissioner
Kevin Clements, Commissioner (arrived at 6:04 p.m.)

Also: Town Manager, Guy Scaife
Eileen Knapp, Recording Secretary

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

No one was present to speak.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Benoit to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2015 meeting with changes. Seconded by Commissioner Simboski. All were in favor, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A MOTION was made by Phil Benoit to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2015 meeting as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Sanzo. All were in favor, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

(Kevin Clements arrives at 6:04p.m.)

IV. RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Frank Morris, Chairman of the Board of Education for Rocky Hill was introduced to discuss issues in the Charter he felt should be addressed. The issues of concern were as follows:

- **Staggering Board of Ed Commissioner's Terms:** This would allow for more continuity on the Board, when you replace members every two years it takes time to get the new Commissioners up to speed on all the initiatives

(Board of Education Commissioner Brian Dillon arrives.)

- **Changing the number of Commissioners on the Board to 7 instead of 9:** this would mean less bodies to serve on the subcommittees, possibly harder to get a quorum at meetings,
- **Not running the Board of Ed Commission along party lines:** Town Manager Scaife pointed out that in New Hampshire there is no party component to Commissions at the municipal level.
- **Having 3-year terms or 4-year terms instead of 2:** Town Manager Scaife noted that New Hampshire has either 3 or 4 years terms and they are all staggered. He agreed that 2 year terms makes it difficult for new members to get up to speed before the 2 year term is up
- **Changing the \$150,000 cap for a referendum in Section 408:** The Board of Ed Commission would like the ability to implement certain capital improvement projects up to a certain threshold, which they really can't do with the \$150,000 cap.
- **Creation of a Capital Improvement Account for the Board of Education for smaller projects:** Allowing for unspent funds to carry over from year to year in that capital improvement account
- **Changing the Charter so that the Board of Education Commission is not considered a "Town Department"**
- **Allowing the Board of Education to submit their budget 100 days prior to the end of the fiscal year (instead of 135 days currently)**

V. DISCUSSION OF TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission received a list from each Town Council Member of items they feel need to be addressed as part of the Charter Revision. The items discussed were:

- Changing the number of voting districts to 3 not 4 and addressing how the voting districts are created
- Looking at the Percentage or number of qualified voters needed to petition to go to a referendum and the percentage required to pass the referendum
- Changing the language so that if an employee is removed from his position, it should be for "cause".
- Term limits for Town Council members

- Updating monetary amounts listed in the Charter to account for inflation
- Clarifying the authority of the Public Building Commission and Government Ops
- Terms of Council Members, possibility of staggered terms
- Address the number and duties of elected Constables

VI. DISCUSSION AND ACTION RE: Set Second Public Hearing/Timeline for November 2015 Ballot

The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Another meeting was scheduled for March 25, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

There was a discussion about Town Charter Section 303b., regarding how the Town Council treats Board appointments. Commissioner Benoit was concerned that the Town Council could reject a party's nomination for a position, putting in their own nominee. Vice Chairman Benoit said he doesn't feel the majority party should be able to put in names of nominees for the minority party.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Clements to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Simboski. All were in favor, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen A. Knapp
Recording Secretary